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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/714,683

11/15/2000

Steven Guttman

22233.05481

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7590

01/11/2006

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORP

IP LAW

555 BAILEY AVENUE, J46/G4

SAN JOSE, CA 95141

EXAMINER

VAUGHN, GREGORY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/714,683	Applicant(s) GUTTMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Gregory J. Vaughn	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 25-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 25-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/10/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Application History*

1. This action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination, filed on 10/27/2005.
2. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12-16 and 25; and added new claims 28-33. Claims 21-24 were previously withdrawn.
3. Claims 1-20 and 25-33 are pending in the case, claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 25, 28 and 31 are independent claims.
4. A request for continued examination filed under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after a final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office Action (dated 7/26/2005) has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's amendment and remarks filed on 9/26/2005 have been entered.
5. Acknowledgement is made to applicant's submission of a corrected Information Disclosure Statement, filed on 9/26/2005.
6. Examiner's rejection of claims 12 and 14-20, made under 35 USC 112 in the *Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112* section of the previous office action (dated 7/26/2005) is withdrawn in view of the amended claims.

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7. Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 5, 10-20 and 25-26, made under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Chester et al., *Mastering Excel 97* as recited in the previous office action (dated 7/26/2005) are withdrawn in view of the amended claims. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection is made, as described below.
8. Examiner's rejection of claims 3, 4 and 6-9, made under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Chester et al., *Mastering Excel 97* in view of Pollack et al., US Patent 6,493,733 as recited in the previous office action (dated 7/26/2005) is withdrawn in view of the amended claims. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made, as described below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*"(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made."*

10. Claims 1, 2, 5 10-20, 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chester et al., Mastering Excel 97, published in 1997 by SYBEX Inc. (hereinafter Chester) in view of Courter et al. Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition, published in 1999 by SYBEX Inc. (hereinafter Courter).

11. **Regarding independent claim 1**, Chester discloses a spreadsheet as a calculator. Chester recites: *"Excel calculates worksheet formulas when changes to the cell values so require"* (page 113, second paragraph). Chester discloses a spreadsheet as a web page. Chester recites: *"you can create an HTML web page from the data and objects on a worksheet, and ultimately publish the page at a web site"* (page 961, right hand column, paragraph 8). Inherently, the calculator web page would be served by the server and viewed by a client. Chester discloses requesting a spreadsheet web page by a user. Chester recites: *"To open a web document, choose FILE > OPEN and enter*

*the HTTP address in the FILE NAME box"* (page 961, right hand column, last paragraph).

Chester discloses displaying a spreadsheet, wherein only certain cells in the spreadsheet are editable. Chester recites: *"Sometimes you may want to protect individual cells in a worksheet. Select FORMAT > CELLS, then select the Protection tab (Figure 11.3)"* (page 294, paragraph 1). Chester discloses a spreadsheet with both editable and non-editable cells. Chester recites; *"The following options are available from the Protection tab in the Formats cells dialog box. Locked: Cells can't be changed after the sheet is protected. Hidden: hides formulas after sheet is protected"* (page 294, second paragraph) and *"By default, each cell is individually set with Locked checked – you must individually unlock each cell that users will be allowed to change before you protect the worksheet"* (page 294, last paragraph).

Chester discloses spreadsheet cells with visually distinct indications, such as a border, in figure 23.4 on page 595, where the editable cells are shown with a border or as radio buttons.

Chester fails to disclose the ability to allow the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser. Chester's *publish to the web* feature, as described for the Excel 97 spreadsheet application, produces non-interactive web pages, which do not allow the user to modify the editability of a cell. Courter teaches the use of interactive web pages that allow spreadsheet functions to be interactive when the web page is converted into a

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web page. Courter recites: *"The office web Components are based on COM, the Component object Model. With these components, you don't need to learn Java to create the slick interactive interface your users are asking for. The COM standard defines groups of functions called interfaces. Interfaces like the Office Web Components are grouped into component categories, which are in turn supported by applications like Excel, Access, and Internet Explorer 4 and 5. COM"* (page 1059, second paragraph). Courter describes the web components for spreadsheets as: *"with the Spreadsheet component, users can add formulas, sort and filter data, and format the worksheet"* (page 1058, last paragraph). Chester therefore teaches a spreadsheet published to the web, where spreadsheet formatting controls (the editability, or locking of a cell, is a format control) is active, or enabled.

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the web calculator spreadsheet of Chester, with the web publishing capabilities as taught by Courter in order to *"make sharing and exchanging documents a snap"* (Courter, page 282, third paragraph).

12. **Regarding dependent claim 2**, Chester discloses a spreadsheet as a calculator web page as described above. Chester fails to disclose e-mailing the calculator to a recipient. Courter teaches the e-mailing of Microsoft documents. Courter recites: *"Choose FILE > SEND TO > ROUTING RECIPIENT to display the Routing slip dialog box shown in Figure 12.9"*

(page 282, paragraph 7) and see Figure 12.9 on page 183, which shows a dialog box where a user would enter a recipient's address.

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the web calculator spreadsheet of Chester, with the e-mail capabilities as taught by Courter in order to “*make sharing and exchanging documents a snap*” (Courter, page 282, third paragraph).

13. **Regarding dependent claim 5**, Chester discloses spreadsheet cells with visually distinct indications, such as a border, where the border can be blue in color. Chester recites: “*Border: provides a preview of cell borders and controls which borders are applied to selected cells*” (page 126, first paragraph) and “*Color controls the color of the selected borders*” (page 125, last paragraph).
14. **Regarding independent claim 10**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected using the same rationale.
15. **Regarding dependent claim 11**, Chester discloses previewing the calculator spreadsheet. Chester recites: “*Preview: Displays a preview of the selected file in the open dialog box*” (page 34, second paragraph).
16. **Regarding independent claim 12**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected using the same rationale. Claim 12 is further directed toward cells with values that depend on values in



other cells. Typically spreadsheet programs refer to this type of functionality as functions or formulas. Chester discloses the use of formulas on page 86 in the figure in the middle of the page (the example is the "AutoSum" function). Chester discloses cells depending on the value in other cells default to being non-editable. Chester recites: "*The worksheet is intended to be used by many non-technical users, and needs to be reasonably bulletproof. When you are done, you protect the worksheet so that users will not be able to delete objects or edit certain locked cells*" (page 600, first paragraph).

17. **Regarding dependent claims 13-15**, Chester discloses spreadsheet cells that are non-editable, and editable and cells values that depend on other cell values as described above. Chester further discloses that cells may contain text. Chester recites: "*Text in a cell can include any combination of letters, numbers and keyboard symbols*" (page 58, third paragraph).
18. **Regarding dependent claim 16**, Chester discloses the ability to toggle the edit ability of a cell on and off as described above, in reference to claim 1. Chester further discloses accessing the formatting controls by clicking on the cell. Chester recites: "*A shortcut menu is a menu that you display by pointing at a certain object, then clicking the right mouse button*" (page 15, first paragraph in the shaded box) and "*Perhaps the most useful shortcut menu is the one displayed when you right-click on a cell. Commands like Cut, Copy, Paste and Format are available*" (page 15, second paragraph of the shaded box).

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19. **Regarding dependent claim 17**, Chester discloses spreadsheet cells with border, where the border can be blue in color. Chester recites: "*Border: provides a preview of cell borders and controls which borders are applied to selected cells*" (page 126, first paragraph) and "*Color controls the color of the selected borders*" (page 125, last paragraph).
20. **Regarding dependent claims 18-20**, Chester discloses the use of an edit ability flag (claim 18), where the flag can be set to false (claim 19) or true (claim 20). Chester discloses the use of an edit ability flag in Figure 11.3 on page 294. The figure further discloses the flag having a true value (shown as a check mark in the selector box) or set to false (the absence of a check mark in the selector box).
21. **Regarding independent claim 25**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected using the same rationale. Claim 25 is further directed toward building an input box for editable cells, where the input box visually distinguishes the editable cells from the non-editable cells. Chester discloses spreadsheet cells with visually distinct indications, such as a border, in figure 23.4 on page 595, where the editable cells are shown with a border or as radio buttons, and the un-editable cells are shown without borders.
22. **Regarding dependent claim 26**, Chester discloses editable and non-editable cells as described above.

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23. **Regarding dependent claim 27**, the claim is rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of the base claims.
24. **Regarding independent claims 28 and 31**, the claims are directed toward a computer-readable medium for the method of claim 1, and are rejected using the same rationale.
25. **Regarding dependent claims 29 and 32**, the claims are directed toward a computer-readable medium for the method of claim 1, and are rejected using the same rationale.
26. **Regarding dependent claims 30 and 33**, the claims are directed toward a computer-readable medium for the method of claim 5, and are rejected using the same rationale.
27. Claims 3-4, 6-9 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chester in view of Courter, and in further view of Pollack et al. US Patent 6,493,733, filed 6/23/2000, patented 12/10/2002 (hereinafter Pollack).
28. **Regarding dependent claims 3 and 4**, Chester and Courter disclose a spreadsheet as a calculator web page as described above. Chester and Courter fail to disclose copying HTML code based upon an ID of requested information (claim 3) where the HTML includes Java Script tags (claim 4). Pollack teaches copying HTML code based upon requested information. Pollack recites: *"One method to help web site authors insert interactive HTML*

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*object into their web pages was to provide the HTML code for the interactive HTML object over the Internet"* (column 1, lines 56-58). Pollack further recites: *"manually cut and paste the HTML code into his web page"* (column 7, lines 59-60). Pollack teaches the use of Java Script tags. Pollack recites: *"the web site providing the interactive content includes some client-side script (such as JavaScript or VBScript)"* (column 3, lines 22-24).

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the web calculator spreadsheet of Chester and Courter, with the HTML inserting method of Pollack in order to *"reduce the complexity inserting interactive HTML objects into files"* (Pollack, column 3, lines 54-55).

29. **Regarding dependent claim 6**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claims 3 and 4, combined and is rejected using the same rationale.
30. **Regarding independent claim 7**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claims 1 and 3, combined and is rejected using the same rationale.
31. **Regarding dependent claims 8 and 9**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 4 and 3, respectively, and are rejected using the same rationale.

***Response to Remarks/Arguments***

32. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 and 25-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, as described above.

33. Paragraph #9 of the *Application History* section of the previous office action (dated 7/26/2005) was inadvertently inserted into the document and should be ignored.

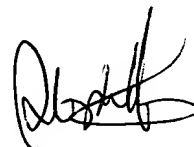
***Conclusion***

34. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4131. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**STEPHEN HONG**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**

Gregory J. Vaughn  
January 6, 2006